

# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL.

ESTABLISHED IN 1861 OLDEST BEE PAPER IN AMERICA  
DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE INTERESTS OF HONEY-PRODUCERS

40th YEAR.

CHICAGO, ILL., JANUARY 25, 1900.

No. 4.



## Report of National Bee-Keepers' Union for 1899.

BY THOMAS G. NEWMAN.

IN making this, my fifteenth and last annual report to the members of the National Bee-Keepers' Union, I labor under peculiar disadvantages. My eyes refuse to serve me to see or read anything, and I am obliged to say that I shall be compelled to retire from the active management of the Union on account of this disability.

During the past 15 years, I have labored assiduously to maintain bee-keepers' rights and defend them when assailed by jealous and envious persons. In this work, the Union has been very fortunate. It has won victories over strong opposition, and judges, courts and jurors have affirmed the rights of bee-keepers who have been defended by the Union.

On account of the short crop of honey in nearly all parts of the United States, during the past year, there has been less manifestation than usual of the animosity of the enemies of the pursuit. When prosperity is not very apparent, envious neighbors do not usually trouble apiarists, or seek to abridge their rights and privileges. The National Bee-Keepers' Union has, as usual, in all instances maintained its record of triumph by either smoothing out the difficulties or crushing the opposition.

FRANK S. BUCHHEIM.—Hardly had the new year dawned, when I was called upon for further advice in the case of Frank S. Buchheim. In my last report I detailed the case of his arrest and imprisonment for keeping bees in the corporate limits of Santa Ana, Cal., of the trial and subsequent appeal to the Superior Court, and triumph therein.

In the meantime, his bees had been removed, and the question came up concerning their return to the spot from which they had been taken. I gave counsel to Mr. Buchheim in this matter, and all trouble seems to have been averted, fully ending the difficulty.

TROUBLESOME NEIGHBOR FOILED.—Last February I received a letter of complaint from Mr. R. L. Meade, of

Ontario, Canada, stating that he had received a threatening letter from a lawyer, who had been employed by his neighbor, who complained about bees alighting on his bushes in swarming-time. As manager of the National Bee-Keepers' Union, I wrote a letter to his neighbor, showing the rights and privileges of apiarists, quoting general law on pursuing and capturing swarms of bees, and advised him not to interfere with Mr. Meade in his business, or attempt to abridge his rights as a citizen. I sent him copies of the decision of the Supreme Court of Arkansas, concerning bees, advising him to read them personally, and also to present them to his lawyer. This was no doubt done, and produced the desired result, nothing further having been heard from that quarter.

POISONING BEES.—Last March, George W. Woodberry, of Los Angeles Co., Calif., complained that a fruit-drying establishment in the proximity of his apiary had exposed poisoned sweets to entice his bees and poison them. I reviewed the whole matter, considered all the circumstances and surroundings, and advised Mr. Woodberry as to the best course to pursue, promising to write to the fruit-drying establishment just before time for their operations for the season, and endeavor to amicably arrange matters so as to prevent the destruction of the bees, as well as to secure their employees from being annoyed by the bees. As the honey season was a failure, no further trouble occurred in that direction, but the foundation is laid for amicable arrangements during another season.

MAKING LAWS AGAINST BEES.—M. Hettel, of Madison Co., Ill., entered complaint last spring that certain persons in his neighborhood were endeavoring to excite the people on the subject of excluding bees from the city limits, by passing an ordinance to compel their removal, and sent a clipping from the local paper concerning the matter. I advised him to keep perfectly quiet, and let the people do just as they

chose, because they could not make an unconstitutional law constitutional by their foolishly voting it to be a law. I sent copies of the Supreme Court decision and other printed matter for distribution to those who would read them, instructing Mr. Hettel to secure the services of a good lawyer to look after the interests of the bees. This action quieted down the excitement and left Mr. Hettel in full possession of his rights and privileges as a bee-keeper.

BEES TROUBLE A NEIGHBOR.—Fred H. Fargo, of Genesee Co., N. Y., stated that bees had stung a neighbor and his horse, while working near his apiary; that he had endeavored to rent the land from his neighbor which was contiguous to his apiary, and thus prevent a recurrence of the



Thomas G. Newman.

annoyance. This, the neighbor refused to do, and consulted a lawyer for the purpose of compelling a removal of the bees.

I wrote several letters to Mr. Fargo to help him out of the difficulty, and furnish him with the Union's printed matter, and promised to aid him in every way possible to maintain his rights, at the same time advising him to try to obtain an amicable settlement of the difficulty, by following the course outlined by me. The matter was arranged without recourse to law, but plans had been made to defend him, had it been necessary.

**THREATENING LAWSUIT.**—In July, J. Youngblood, of Los Angeles Co., Calif., sent me a notice which had been served on him, demanding the immediate removal of his bees from proximity to fruit-drying premises, threatening him with trouble if he did not immediately comply. I gave the matter attention, wrote to Mr. Youngblood what course to pursue, sent him copies of the decision of the Supreme Court, and directed him to employ a good lawyer to defend the case. This he did, and further trouble was averted.

When the parties making the threat were informed that the National Bee-Keepers' Union were defending the case, they stopt to consider the matter, and calmly looked the facts in the face, rather than let passion run riot.

In all these cases, it will be seen what a moral power there is in membership in a Union, which has such a magnificent record of victories, when defending the rights of bee-keepers. Its name and history compel respect, and prevents foolish men from running into trouble by pursuing an unwise course in their persecution of apiarists.

**AMALGAMATION OF THE UNION AND ASSOCIATION.**—Last summer, being invited to write an essay to be read at the national convention to be held at Philadelphia, Pa., on the subject of "Organization Among Bee-Keepers—If Desirable, Why? and How Best Accomplished?" I consented to do so, and a correspondence was the result, between Dr. A. B. Mason, secretary of the United States Bee-Keepers' Association, and myself, as secretary of the National Bee-Keepers' Union. It was mutually agreed that we should formulate a new Constitution suited to both organizations, and present it at the Philadelphia convention for discussion. After being amended by those present, Dr. Mason, secretary of that convention, duly notified me that it was approved by that body, and would be submitted by its members at the coming election, for adoption, and asking that it be also submitted to the members of the National Bee-Keepers' Union at the election taking place in January, 1900. It has already been submitted to the members of the United States Bee-Keepers' Association, and received almost unanimous approval.

I also submit it to the members of the National Bee-Keepers' Union, and request them to vote for its adoption in its entirety. This action and the election of the same officers will result in harmoniously uniting the two associations, as has been desired by a majority of both organizations for several years. It will present a united front to the world, and create a large and potent association to continue the work heretofore done by the two bodies.

[Then follows the new constitution (which we publish on page 707 in 1899) and financial report, which shows 108 members and \$126.00 in the treasury.—EDITOR.]

In submitting this, my fifteenth and last annual report, to the members of the Union, I desire to thank them for the courtesy and kindness shown me during that time, and shall ever remember such with pleasure.

Hoping that the future of the Union under its new name and management may continue to be a grand success, and that it may live long as a bulwark of safety for the apiarists of America, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

THOMAS G. NEWMAN, *General Manager.*  
San Francisco, Calif., Dec. 31, 1899.



### Mesquite as a Honey-Plant in Texas.

BY L. STACHELHAUSEN.

ON page 797, I find the following question: "Will some southwestern subscriber tell us thru the American Bee Journal all about the mesquite as a honey-plant, time of blooming, duration of flow, and amount of honey per colony an apiary will average from it in an ordinary season?"

Mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*) is a brush or tree which covers our Texas prairies in large quantities, and is one of

our most important honey-plants. It commences to bloom the end of March or the first days of April, and this first bloom lasts about four weeks. In a dry spring it blooms more, and gives more honey; this is a great advantage, because at such times all other plants fail to secrete honey. A rain will destroy the blossoms, and the honey-flow is suddenly closed for this time. It commences to bloom again in June, and keeps on till August, so we generally can see ripe beans and blossoms on the same tree. This second flow is generally not as good as the first one, at least in my locality.

It is hard to tell how much an apiary would average from this source. In 20 years' experience I do not remember that mesquite did not bring at least some surplus honey. The first bloom generally causes much swarming here. Last year I established an out-apiary seven miles from my house, where mesquite covers many thousand acres of land. Around here nearly all is cropt out. This apiary averaged about 120 pounds per colony; while my home apiary did not quite average 50 pounds per colony. In both apiaries mesquite was nearly the only honey-source we had in this very bad year of 1899.

Mesquite honey is of fine flavor, and very light color. It is by far the best honey in this locality, and I estimate it as good as clover honey.

Bexar Co., Tex., Dec. 19, 1899.



### No. 5.—The Bee-Smoker—How to Get the Most Out of It.

BY "OLD GRIMES."

THE first bellows smoker ever used in the Grimes apiary came from the first smoker inventor, Moses Quinby, and what a crude appearance it would present beside the elegant Bingham and the other smokers of the day!

As to construction, I do not believe the present smokers could be improved upon, and when the hereafter improvements come it will be in some radical change in the method employed to subdue the bees. In my day I have seen men eat tow and blow fire out of their mouth and nose, but the bee-keeper has never fathomed the secret—perhaps there is too much "hot blast" to it, but it is possible that some enterprising bee-keeper with an inventive turn of mind, will "catch on" to this idea some day, and all the bee-keeper will have to do will be to regulate his diet accordingly.

I have to deal, however, with the present smoker, and in the matter of either cold or hot-blast smokers the Grimes family have talked the matter over autocratically at the breakfast table, and have come to the conclusion that all the bee needs to subdue her combative propensities is smoke, and the difference between hot and cold blast is not enough to make any material difference. We can make a cold-blast smoker hot-blast, or vice versa.

It depends much upon the fuel used, in order to make a lasting smoke. Some advise hardwood, maple, etc. Now, if you desire to make a hot-blast from a cold-blast smoker, just get a good wad of hardwood coals in the furnace, and the heat of the smoke will not be much more augmented if a hot-blast smoker is used. Now let us fill a hot-blast smoker with fine shavings, straw, or gunny-sacking, and after the smoke is well developed insert a compact wad moistened with water, and the smoke will be as cool as any one need desire.

I have seen many smokers since the days of Quinby, and have seen some immense, cumbersome fellows, with a sheet-iron fire-box as large as a stove-pipe. Such things need an extra man to carry them around, and to manipulate them, and life is too short to bother with them, any way.

The Grimes family use a medium-sized smoker. To start a smoker quickly we have used a little spring-bottom oil-can filled with kerosene. A few squirts with this upon the fuel before applying the match will insure a fire, every time. I have no doubt but Dr. Miller's saltpeter plasters would do as well. I take the Doctor's word for it, and he ought to know, for he is well up in the plaster business!

In our Grimes apiary we use gunny-sacking for fuel, as we have plenty of it, and we make a small square of it last half a day, and even longer. The sacking is prepared for business when the sun wax-extractor is in use. When the sun has done its work, and left quite a little hot slumgum, work the gunny-sack into it, and wipe out the tin bottom with it, and it will become saturated more or less with the residue of beeswax and bee-glue, and thus prepared it will burn a long time in the smoker.

But the boys and I are not arbitrary in our advice in

the matter of fuel for smokers; we use what suits us, and are willing that others should do the same.

If we were to try to improve the smoker we would make it quite small, and light weight; and then as to fuel, we believe there are cheap materials that can be combined whereby a large amount of smoke can be made from a small amount of fuel. For instance, a Chinese joss-stick not much larger than a knitting needle, and about as long, will smolder a whole day, and emit a wreath of smoke and a pleasant incense.

It is a good plan to temper the smoke to the colony. Some bee-keepers temper the smoke according to their fears of bee-stings, but the practical man has no fear of stings, and can exercise a little mercy upon the bee. The experienced bee-man soon knows how much smoke to use, just from the way the hive opens up. It is quite an orthodox rule to smoke the bees at the entrance of the hive when it is approacht, but the busy bee-man forgets this operation so often that it is after awhile wholly neglected. The first blast into the top of the hive after the cover is removed sends a thrill of alarm clear to the entrance, and the temper of the colony is soon learned.

It is perhaps not a very important matter as to where the smoker is kept when not in use, but an orderly bee-keeper will have a little closet near the honey-house large enough for two or three smokers, and lined with tin or asbestos, and having an exit for smoke. You can get more out of a smoker by using it well, and then if it is put in a safe place, and there is a little fire left in it, there will be no danger from the fire communicating with other things. Many bee-hives and buildings have been damaged from this lack of care.

And now when I have said all I care to say about the smoker, one of the boys at my elbow remarks that the fellow I refer to who ate tow and spit fire reminds him that some men use a filthy weed known as tobacco, as fuel for smoke, and a pipe, and the mouth for a furnace; and that reminds me of the old adage about the man with a cigar—"A little roll of tobacco leaves with a fire at one end and a big fool at the other." Don't be a fool; but if you are, get into the ranks of the wise people as soon as possible.



### Report for the Season of 1899.

BY A. F. FOOTE.

**I**N the way of a report for the season of 1899, I have this to say: I lost 40 colonies last winter and saved 14, which increase to 30 by natural swarming, and I secured 600 pounds of comb honey, mostly from buckwheat and fall flowers, tho the bees did well on Alsike clover, but the supply was limited.

My bees were weak in the spring, but I fed them liberally till fruit-bloom, and after that till clover bloom, and again, after the supers were removed, during the warm days in the early part of November, and they are now in the cellar with very ample stores for winter. Their last flight was on Nov. 28, and I put them into the cellar Dec. 4.

Like many other localities, as reported in the American Bee Journal, the honey crop here was light compared with many years in the past—in fact, this is not an ideal country for bees at best. I have sold all my surplus, regardless of color, readily, at home for 15 cents per pound.

#### EXPERIENCE IN FEEDING BEES.

I can't resist the temptation to give a little of my experience in feeding, which was hardly "according to the books," neither were the consequences which followed the method. Let it be understood on the start that there were no "neighboring" bees to bother.

Every day, during the time I was feeding, when it was warm enough for the bees to fly freely, I put out (on boards, boxes, etc., several rods from the apiary) broken and unfinest sections of honey, and some old candied honey, diluted—all in shallow dishes of some kind—and let the bees help themselves. I regulated the supply so that it would all be cleaned up by the early part of the afternoon.

Well, did it teach them to rob? Not at all. Contrary to the theories advanced by the wiseacres at the Philadelphia bee-convention, there was not a single case of robbing or attempt to rob; when the day's supply of feed was cleaned up, they all returned to their homes and behaved themselves like the good little creatures that they are, and good-natured, too.

It seems to me my bees never showed so little disposi-

tion to sting as they did the past season, and they are mostly hybrids, too.

Now, a little further experience, and I am done: My first swarm, a large one, issued on May 27, just at a time when there seemed to be nothing for them in the fields, so I put a super containing several sections of uncapt honey on the hive to tide them over. A few hours afterward I went out, and it seemed as if half the bees in the apiary were hovering around that hive after the honey had been put into it, and I had quite a time dispersing them, but I succeeded at last, and saved the swarm.

I tried it again with a swarm that issued a few days later, with the same result. After that, as before, I did my feeding outside, and had no more trouble.

What are your experts going to do about it? Of course, the fact is perfectly clear that the stronger colonies secured more supplies than the weaker ones, and why should they not? There were more mouths to feed.

Mitchell Co., Iowa, Dec. 20, 1899.



### Annual Report for 1899 of the Inspector of Apiaries for the Province of Ontario.

BY WM. M'EVOLY.

**D**URING 1899 I visited bee-yards in the counties of Halton, Norfolk, Middlesex, Oxford, Brant, Wentworth, Lincoln, Wellington, Halton, Peel, York, Ontario and Simcoe. I inspected 126 apiaries, and found foul brood in 47 of them.

In places where I never had been before is where I found nine-tenths of the foul-broody apiaries the past season, and over three-fourths of the owners of these diseased apiaries did not know that their colonies had foul brood when I first visited them.

I took the greatest of pains to explain to the bee-keepers how to manage the business so as to have every colony a good, strong one, and in fine condition when they were cured of the disease.

In looking back over the nine years that I have inspected the apiaries in the Province of Ontario, I noticed that I had found foul brood very widely spread thru 30 counties, I succeeded in getting thousands of foul-broody colonies cured, the disease driven out by wholesale, and peaceful settlements made in every case where diseased colonies were sold thru mistakes of the parties selling, not knowing of their colonies being diseased at the time of sale.

Nine years ago very few among those that kept bees then were able to tell the disease from other kinds of dead brood, and not over half a dozen men in Ontario could cure an apiary of foul brood, and end the season with every colony in first-class order. The instructions that I gave while on my rounds thru the Province, and the driving out of the disease by wholesale, will make Ontario one of the safest places in the world in which to keep bees.

Mr. F. A. Gemmill is the man that deserves the credit for all the work that I have done, and the Government of our country that has paid for it. In 1890 Mr. Gemmill took hold and workt hard until he got the foul-brood Act past, which has proved to be a great benefit to hundreds of bee-keepers.

I am greatly pleased with the way the bee-keepers took hold in the past season, and cured their apiaries of foul brood. Where I found a few worthless colonies almost dead from the disease late in the fall (and near fine, sound apiaries) I burned them. The total number that I burned in the Province was 20 colonies, after the owners and I had reasoned out things nicely together.

And for the courteous and very generous way that I have been treated by the bee-keepers of every locality that I went into, I return to them my most heartfelt thanks.

Woodburn, Ont., Canada.



### Selling Honey—Asking What It is Worth.

BY HARRY LATHROP.

**I**BELIEVE bee-keepers lose money by not having the grit to ask what their product is worth. It is the weak-kneed fellows that lower the price for the rest of the fraternity.

During the fall of 1898, the A. I. Root Co. sent out cards asking for prices on comb honey. I had some that I thought was fancy, and wrote them that they might have it at 13 cents on cars here. They replied that the price was too

high for them, but they were glad if bee-keepers were able to realize so much. I knew when I wrote them that they could not afford to pay what I askt, and smiled at my own presumption. But, as it turned out, I was justified in asking what I did, for that whole lot of honey, fancy and No. 1, netted me a fraction over 12½ cents. I loaded it into a box-car with hay under it, and no outer cases, and it went thru to its destination without being handled. This honey was sold by a commission house.

This year (1899) my honey was all light amber mixt. The commission men claim that amber honey does not sell well, consequently I sold my honey direct, realizing 12½ to 14 cents net for the amber comb honey. I sold it in lots direct to retail merchants, and not in a single instance has any one complained that the honey was not good. If I had listened to the Chicago commission men I would have concluded that it was a hard matter to sell such honey, and been willing to take any kind of price for it. I am glad to know that in New York State this mixt amber honey is appreciated. A market can be establisht for it here in the northwest if bee-keepers are firm in demanding what it is worth.

There is no sense in the idea that honey must be "white" in order to be good honey, no more than there is in the idea that honey in tall sections is better than it is in square sections.

My honey this year was produced from white clover, goldenrod, asters, and heartsease, all blended together, and many people prefer this honey to any other.

We should be shy of those persons who go to bee-keepers and offer a big price for "strictly white clover," or strictly something else, when they know he has none that is unmixed, and expect to buy his mixt grades for about half what they are worth.

Honey of good body and flavor need not go begging, even if it has been produced from a variety of flowers.

In conclusion, I would say to the producers, If you must sell your honey at a low price, it is better to let the jobber have it than to sell it to the retailer. The jobber knows what it is worth, and will not sell it at a price to demoralize the market as the retailer would be very apt to do.

The best sign of the times for bee-keepers is the fact that buyers were lately going about the country picking up honey in small or large lots. This indicates that soon there will be an establisht market value for honey, the same as there is for wool and other products of the farm.

Monroe Co., Wis.

## CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

### Report of the Michigan Bee-Keepers' Convention

BY WM. G. VOORHEIS.

The Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Convention was held at Thompsonville, Mich., Jan. 1 and 2, 1900. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Geo. E. Hilton. Owing to the absence of Secretary Hutchinson, Wm. G. Voorheis was elected secretary *pro tem.* The secretary not being able to prepare a program, it was suggested that the members discuss any topic they may be interested in.

#### THE WINTERING OF BEES.

Mr. Chapman—I winter my bees in a very dry cellar under my house. I want my bees in good condition before I put them into the cellar. I put them in early—one time in September. Bees will consume more honey in six weeks in the fall when the weather is cool and frosty than they will in three months in the cellar. I use the single-walled hives, and keep the cellar dark—temperature about 45 degrees. I would not have chaff hives, as they are too much bother. Where I live it is very cold in winter, as the altitude is about the highest in the Lower Peninsula. I do not ventilate the cellar in cold weather or towards spring.

Mr. Van Amburg—I winter my bees in a cellar built in a sand-bank. I wintered them in a cellar for two years that was built in a clay-bank, and did not like it, as it was too damp. I do not think it wise to keep the bees out late in the fall when it is cold and frosty. I keep the cellar dark,

and temperature 45 degrees. I want good feed to winter bees on. Poor feed will not winter bees well.

Mr. Chapman—I winter my bees in hives with the bottoms nailed on. I leave the covers on, and use the Langstroth hive.

Mr. Van Amburg—I use the Heddon hive, and set it so it will tip forward. I shove the covers forward so as to leave a space of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch at the back, and double up in the spring and fall. My bees get most of their honey from raspberry and white clover.

Mr. Coveyou—I have wintered my bees the last five years in a cellar, with a loss of about two percent. I use the 10-frame Langstroth hive, and do not like the bottoms nailed on. I use the single-walled hive, and get most of the honey from raspberry.

Mr. Kitson—I am a farmer bee-keeper, having 78 colonies. I wintered them in a cellar two winters, that was built in a bank close to a creek, and lost half of them each winter. Now I winter them in a cellar under a barn. I put in 32 colonies last winter, and did not lose any. I have used chaff hives, and lost 5 colonies out of 30 by spring dwindling. I do not see any difference in spring dwindling between single-walled hives and chaff hives. I could not see any difference in spring dwindling between bees wintered outdoors and those in a cellar.

Mr. Woodman—I winter bees in a cellar under the house, the chimney of the house going down to the bottom of the cellar. No trouble about wintering.

Mr. Hilton—The entrance of the hive must not be closed in the cellar or outdoors. If the bees find they are confined they will rebel, and then die.

Mr. Irwin—I winter bees outdoors, using Hilton chaff hives. I have no trouble with spring dwindling. I put four colonies in the cellar last winter, and lost all. I like the chaff hives best, as they are cool in summer and warm in winter. I use a cushion made of factory-cloth filled with chaff on top of the hive.

Mr. Hatch—I use the Hilton chaff hive, with a chaff cushion on top. Last winter my bees were all right up to March 1, but by the last of March I found that I had lost two-thirds of them. The bees had plenty of honey. The loss occurred in a period of from 15 to 20 days. The hive-entrances were closed, and about one-half of the combs melted.

Mr. Gifford—The closed entrance was the cause of the loss of the bees.

Mr. Kaufman—I winter my bees in a damp cellar. I first wintered with hive-covers on tight, and lost one-half of them. The hives came out damp and soggy. The next winter I left the entrances open  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, and lost them again. While it was dry near the entrance it was wet back from it. The next winter I put a piece of factory-cloth over them, and lost none. The next winter I did not leave anything over them, and lost one-half of them by dysentery. My bees ate too much honey. Now I set the hives on a 2x4 inch scantling, pile them four tiers high, diagonally, with a piece of factory-cloth over each of them. I have had no trouble since I used them.

Mrs. Morrow—I winter my bees outdoors in chaff hives, with chaff cushions four inches thick on top of the hives. I do not have any trouble.

Mr. Hilton—I want well-ripened honey to winter bees on. I do not extract from the brood-nest. You cannot expect comb honey where you use the extractor.

Mr. Calvert (of Ohio)—Nineteen years ago Mr. Root lost all his bees in winter by selling bees by the pound the summer before; but since that time he has not lost 5 percent. He uses chaff hives, and always winters his bees on sugar syrup. If bees get honey-dew you will lose them. Mr. Root uses chaff cushions on top of the hives, and feeds up in September and October.

Mr. Beecham—I do not believe in feeding sugar syrup to bees, as it gives the bee-keeper a bad name.

Mr. Calvert—I think it is safer to feed syrup than honey that one knows nothing about. Our bees will not take glucose.

A vote was taken on outdoor wintering and indoor wintering, resulting as follows: For outdoor wintering, 20; indoor, 11.

Mr. Collingwood—I use the chaff hive, and winter outdoors. I think that people living in the South should winter their bees in cellars. Bees will starve to death if kept too cold with plenty of honey in the hive.

Mr. Hilton—Towards spring, when a warm spell comes, the bees commence to breed, then if the weather should become cold the bees would starve before leaving their young to get honey. The bees cluster around their brood to keep

it warm, and do not like to leave it for fear the cold will kill it.

Mr. Collingwood—The cushion over the hive should be three inches thick, made of two thicknesses of burlap on each side.

Mr. Van Tassel—I have kept bees four years. I use chaff hives, and winter them outdoors. Bees will keep warm in the fall without trouble. The first winter I lost one colony out of eight. Last winter I lost 15. I throw snow around the hives when it is cold, and keep the entrances clear. Last winter a neighbor lost every colony he had in a building on top of the ground.

Mr. Van Amburg—A neighbor banks up his hives with snow. He uses chaff hives.

Mr. Hilton—I use chaff hives, and have wintered bees with snow around them. I do not dig them out until towards spring, and keep the snow away from the entrances.

Mr. Hatch—I like to shade the hives when the bees begin to fly.

Mr. Beecham—I have had bees 18 years, and wintered them outdoors in chaff hives until the last two winters, then I used single-walled hives in a cellar. I think the chaff hives are too much bother, the principal trouble being to spring them.

#### BEST METHOD TO PREVENT SWARMING.

Mr. Hilton—Bees swarm for two reasons—for increase and for lack of room. I can prevent swarming to a great extent by extracting and adding supers. I always put the empty super under the one that is partly filled. I have not had over one-third of my bees swarm by using the tiering-up process. Watch them closely, and see if they have plenty of room. If two supers should be one-half filled, place an empty super between them. In 1896 I bought bees from various persons, and several colonies had lost their queens. One queen swarmed out when two frames were filled with brood. There was no more space for brood, as the rest of the frames were filled with honey. They will not swarm so much if they have plenty of room. I do not use unfinisht sections the following season, but use foundation, which I think is better than old comb; the latter I do not consider valuable to use in sections.

Mr. Calvert—I reduce the comb with a comb-leveler.

Mr. Gifford—I take imperfect sections that are nicely drawn out, extracted the honey from them, and use them again. These sections do not have any fish-bone in them.

QUESTION—Is there a non-swarming hive?

Mr. Hilton—I do not think that there are any non-swarming hives.

Mr. Coveyou—The trouble is, that the colonies do not receive attention at the time that they should have it.

#### GETTING BEES TO WORK IN SUPERS.

Mr. Hilton—When the bees cap over the upper surface of the frames, they will not work in the supers. Bees that get their brood-nest clogged with honey will not use supers. Use the extractor when the frames get cap over; that will force the bees into the supers. You must uncaps the brood-combs. You could use foundation in frames instead of combs.

Mr. Beecham—I have used the Heddon hive, and reverst the hive to prevent swarming, but they swarmed 10 days after it was done.

Mr. Hilton—I do not use the queen-excluder in my hives, but a thick top-bar.

Mr. Chapman—I use the queen-excluder. My bees do not swarm, as I do not produce comb honey. My locality is not suited for it. I have young queens every year. My colonies are strong in the spring, and at the beginning of the basswood flow I kill all my queens. When I want increase I divide at the close of the season. Young queens will not swarm if given plenty of room. By keeping the swarming-fever down I keep the queen in the lower story. I take two frames from the lower story that are filled with brood, and place those over the brood-nest, and add frames from time to time as needed. I never use a queen more than one year. I get better queens in this way than I can buy. I have bought some queens—got them by mail; the trouble seems to be that they get injured in the mails.

Mr. Calvert—I think that queens that come by mail are not in as good condition as those reared at home.

Mr. Kauffman—I kill all my queens at the beginning of the basswood flow, and I get one-third more honey when I kill the queens.

Mr. Hilton—The plan of Mr. Chapman and Mr. Kauffman is to get honey instead of brood. As the young queen does not lay as soon the hive is not so full of brood for the

bees to take care of, so all the bees can gather honey. By letting the old queen live the family of brood eat the honey.

Mr. Chapman—I winter my bees in one-story hives; after the honey-flow the bees increase enough to make a good colony for winter.

[Concluded next week.]



CONDUCTED BY

**DR. C. C. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.**

[The Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal office, or to Dr. Miller direct, when he will answer them here. Please do not ask the Doctor to send answers by mail.—EDITOR.]

#### The Clovers as Honey-Yielders.

What clovers and flowers are the best for the production of honey, in your opinion? Do they produce light or dark honey? I have noted somewhere that alfalfa and alsike clovers are good. Is that the case? If so, are there any others of the clovers? Sweet clover, I believe, is good, but it spreads so. Is there a law prohibiting the raising of this plant?

ANSWER.—In your region, central Illinois, you will find any of the plants mentioned good, except alfalfa. Alfalfa is one of the very best honey-plants in some parts of the West, and it has been successfully raised as a forage-plant in Illinois, but for some reason it does not seem to be of any special value as a honey-plant as far east as Illinois. Alsike is an excellent honey-plant, and no doubt a valuable forage-plant where you live; the honey from it is light and of finest flavor. Sweet clover is one of the best honey-plants, the honey being light in color. Some say the flavor is objectionable; some say it is the very best. It is possible that the objectionable flavor only comes when the honey is poorly ripened. There is no law against sowing sweet clover, and altho it spreads along the roadside, in cultivated fields, it is no worse to spread than red clover.

#### Several Young Queens In a Hive.

Generally the books for beginners say that when there are two or more queens in a colony, to decide which shall rule the hive, the queens have a battle and the victorious one is the accepted mother.

Now, I have not had as much experience as some, and not any with a glass hive, but all my observance has been that the queen question is decided some way, then after it is settled, the doomed queen, or queens, are destroyed by the bees in about the same manner as drones, and the accepted one is going about her own affairs just as tho nothing was going on.

What I wish to know is this: Are my observations misleading me, or has there been a change of opinion since these books were first written, or are these statements in the books true generally? If I am going astray in this circumstance I may be going wrong from other observations which I might be accepting that I might believe true ones.

SUBSCRIBER.

ANSWER.—It is the general belief that the workers decide whether any of the young queens are to be slaughtered or not. If they decide that for the present all are to be spared—which is equivalent to deciding that there shall be one or more after-swarms—then the workers protect the young queens in their cells from the attacks of the young queens at large, and no others are allowed to emerge from their cells. When the workers decide that there shall be no more swarming, then none of the young queens in the cells are protected, and all are allowed to emerge from their cells that are sufficiently matured. When more than one is at large, there is a fight to the finish whenever two of them meet. Those in the cells too young to emerge have their cells torn open and their lives taken by their older sister,

the workers afterward concluding the work by carrying out the dead bodies and tearing down the cells.

If there are young queens in their cells when a young queen "is going about her own affairs," you will probably find, if you observe closely, that one of her important affairs is murdering her royal sisters in their cradles, or trying to do so if the workers keep her off. It will be an easy thing in many cases for you to see a royal battle, if you allow to come together two young queens. They do not make very slow work about it, either. One time I cut out of a frame a piece of comb on which were two mature queen-cells, neither of the queens having yet emerged. I laid down the two cells and closed the hive, then turned to take care of my two queen-cells. In that short time both queens had emerged and one of them was stung to death by the other.

### Superseding Queens—Rearing Queens in Upper Stories.

1. When bees start queen-cells for the purpose of superseding their queen, are they apt to, or do they ever, let more than one cell mature, and then swarm?

2. When cells are placed in an upper story to be cared for, with an excluder between the upper and lower story, will the bees allow a cell to hatch and the queen to live in the upper story?

NEW YORK.

ANSWERS.—1. As a rule they do not. Most of the superseding is done near the close of the honey-harvest or after its close, and sometimes in the early part of the season before the honey harvest. In neither case will there be any swarming, and only one young queen will hold the field. But if superseding should occur during a full flow of honey, the chances are in favor of swarming.

2. A young queen will be reared in the second story, but will in some way disappear before she gets to laying. At least it has been so in a number of cases that I have tried. But the case is different if the young queen is reared in the third or fourth story. In more than one instance I have had a queen reared in the fourth story and continue laying there thruout the season, the old queen being in the first story with an excluder over it but no excluder between the other stories. There was an entrance to the fourth story.

### Starting Foul Brood.

A friend of mine who has been keeping bees for a long time says his bees have foul brood, and doesn't have any idea how it started. He has run mostly for extracted honey. Now to the question:

1. If one should extract honey out of combs that contain brood, and kill considerable brood at the close of a honey-flow, and the bees allow the brood to remain in the combs until it becomes decayed, is it possible foul brood would start?

2. At this time of year is there any way to stamp it out, except by burning hives, bees, and everything that may be infected?

I am very much interested for fear the disease may spread, as it is only about 10 miles from me. I have 10 colonies in prime condition.

TEXAS.

ANSWERS.—1. If there is no foul brood anywhere in your region, I don't believe you can start it by any treatment of the brood. If it is in the neighborhood, bad treatment of the brood might favor its rapid development.

2. You will hardly be able to make a thoro cure of a genuine case of foul brood at this time of the year in any other way than by the utter destruction of the colony.

### Domesticating Wild Bumble-Bees.

Has any one ever tried to domesticate the wild bumble-bee that builds its nest in the meadows? If so, what were the results? Did he get them domesticated? How did he try to domesticate them? Dr. Miller, this is a pretty hard question to answer, and I hope you will only do the best you can. I will try to domesticate them next summer, but if you know that they cannot be domesticated, and will please tell me, it will save me both time and labor.

My reasons for wanting them domesticated are these:

1. Because they are larger than honey-bees, and can therefore carry more honey at a single time. I suppose somebody will tell me they will also eat more than a honey-bee; but I explain it thus: If you have a large pig, and

bring it to market, you will get just as much for it as you would for two that were each only half as big; and the profit is, the large pig would not have eaten as much food as the two small ones. Altho pigs and bees differ greatly, in this respect they are the same.

2. They have a longer tongue, and can therefore gather honey from any kind of flowers.

3. They will gather more surplus than others.

4. Their honey tastes better than that of other bees.

5. They will take the place of *Apis dorsata*. IOWA.

ANSWER.—Yes, I tried it long before I knew a queen from a drone. No doubt a good many others have tried it. Bumble-bees can be domesticated as well as hive-bees; that is, they can be got to stay in a box, and only a small box is needed, but there can never be got honey enough to pay for the trouble. You never find any considerable amount of honey in a bumble-bee's nest. They don't get any serious surplus ahead like hive-bees. Bumble-bees' honey tasted to me, I think, as it did to you, the best of any honey I ever tasted. I suspect, however, that if some one had filled one of the pockets in a bumble-bee's nest with honey from a section, I would not have known the difference. A bare-footed small boy chasing thru the meadows till he had a ravenous appetite would be delighted with any sweet he might find, and the less of it the sweeter it would taste. It will cost very little, however, for you to try the experiment, and you can get some good honey; but there is no great danger that the market will ever be overstocked with honey gathered by bumble-bees.

### Open-End or Closed-End Frames.

As I am a beginner in bee-keeping I want to start in with the best kind of hive for comb honey. The winters here (northern Maine) are severe, and I intend to winter my bees in a good, dry cellar. Which hive would you advise me to start with—one with hanging frames, or closed-end frames? It seems to me a hive with the latter style of frames in this climate might be better than the open-end frame.

MAINE.

ANSWER.—Your question is not so easy to answer. For the bees it is probably better to have close-end frames. That makes practically a double wall at each end. For the convenience of the bee-keeper it is better to have the frames spaced with staples or nails. I think the ideal spacer would be a nail with a head  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick, so that it would automatically be driven the exact depth; but you can't get such nails. For my own use, I have decided that the advantage of the closed-end frames to the bees would not be enough to overbalance the inconvenience of handling such frames. If there is no bee-glue where you are, and if you don't mind going slow enough to avoid killing bees between end-bars, then you might do well to have closed-end frames. So long as you winter bees in the cellar, northern Maine is no worse than northern Illinois. Indeed, even for out-door wintering it is possible you have the best of it, for you hardly have the savage winds that sweep over the prairies of Illinois. If I were to be set down on the next farm to you, I should prefer open-end frames; but all would not agree with me.

### Why Comb Honey "Works."

If this is not too old a conundrum, please answer it in the American Bee Journal:

Quite a number of my sections of honey seem to "work" after being stored away. The combs look foamy and a good part of the honey runs out. Some were in a very warm place—others where it was cool—but all acted alike, i.e., all that workt at all. Do you know what caused this, and what will prevent it?

CHUCKLEHEAD.

ANSWER.—No conundrum is too old for this department. The only ones ruled out are those whose answers are plainly given in the text-books; so yours is in order.

The only reason for your honey working and foaming was because it—that is—well, it workt. "Why did it work?" Well, honey attracts moisture from the air, and when it becomes thin enough it may ferment. Now, that's enough to satisfy any reasonable person, but it will be just like you to say, "But what special reason was there why my section-honey should act so, more than other honey?" All honey doesn't behave in that way." Well, since you insist, I must answer that I don't know. You may rely upon it, however, that unless there was some special characteristic about your

honey that made it different from other honey—which I very much doubt—the conditions were favorable for the absorption of moisture to a more than ordinary degree. Some sections were worse than others in the same lot, and that may have been because of difference in ripeness when taken from the hives, providing all had the same treatment after being taken from the hives. If one section is left on a hive longer than another, there may be a difference in ripeness.

Some of it was in a warm, and some in a cold, place. Other things being equal, the honey in the warm place had the advantage, but there may have been some reason why the warm place was unusually damp. If you keep honey in a warm room, and this opens into a warmer room in which steam is generated, your honey would attract moisture from the atmosphere.

The remedy is to keep the honey in a place where the constant tendency is toward drying. If thru the hot weather it be kept in a hot, dry, airy place, it will stand much more abuse when cold weather comes. Where salt keeps dry is a good place to keep honey.

Possibly no true guess has here been made to fit your case.

### Feeding Bees in Box-Hives.

1. I am much interested in your answer to "New Jersey," on page 6, for I have lately purchast 3 colonies of bees in what are practically box-hives. One of them I will have to feed. I have no cellar, and want to pack them as I do the others on the summer stands. I can get the lids off, so how will it do to lay the candy on top of the brood-frames, and after putting a super on, pack above it as usual?

2. Can I put in enough candy so it will not be necessary to disturb them again until summer—I mean, would it be advisable to do so?

KANSAS.

ANSWERS.—1. Your plan will work all right, unless it should happen that the bees did not reach the candy, in which case they would starve with abundance over them. This might happen if you should operate in a very cold time when the bees were shrunk into a ball a little out of reach of the candy. Better make sure before covering up, that the bees actually reach the candy. If the weather is mild there will be no trouble; but if it should be cold it would be a good plan to drum on the hive enough to make them go up to the candy. This is on the supposition that they are so short of honey that they might starve before a day comes warm enough for them to reach the candy. If they have honey enough to last till the first warm spell, there need be little fear.

2. Yes, there will be no harm in putting in too much, and there might be much harm in putting in too little.

### Transferring, Dividing and Italianizing.

I have two colonies of hybrids in Quinby hives, very populous, with about 40 pounds of honey in each hive for the winter. Next season I wish to divide, Italianize, and transfer them to Langstroth hives. Can I make one job of it in the following manner?

Smoke the bees at the entrance, lift the hive from the stand, take off the cover, and place the honey-board on top of the frames. Then set the new hive, No. 1 (fitted with Hoffman frames of empty combs or foundation, without bottom-board, and containing caged Italian queen) on top of the old hive, dram up the bees for 10 or 15 minutes, until about half of them have ascended, then set the new hive on the old stand.

Next set new hive, No. 2, on the new stand, fitted with frames as before, but without a queen; shake the frames with adhering bees and the old queen into the new hive, No. 2. Transfer the 10 combs of brood and honey from the old frames to Hoffman frames, and put five into each of the two new hives. Take away the old queen from hive No. 2 in two or three days, and introduce an Italian queen about two days afterwards.

When would be the best time to do this? Any change in the operation that you can suggest, will be gratefully accepted.

MASSACHUSETTS.

ANSWER.—Your plan might not work to your satisfaction. When you drive the bees into hive No. 1, you have no security that the queen will not go up with them. If you drive half the bees into No. 1, all the field-bees left in No. 2 will join No. 1 in a day or so, and you will have no bees left in No. 2 except half of the bees under 16 days old.

You may be better satisfied to transfer the colony into

Langstroth frames in time of fruit-bloom, reserving the extra combs for future use if you have more than you need for the Langstroth hive; then when the colony swarms, hive the swarm in hive No. 2. It will be just as easy to make a separate job of Italianizing, and will scarcely take any more attention than the plan you propose; for in one case your introducing the queen is a separate job, and in the other you will have to see to releasing her at the proper time. Before trying any original plans, always study thoroughly your text-book so as to have principles well in hand.

### Bees Dying in Winter.

My bees seem all to be dying, and I don't know what can be the matter with them. They seem to be full and healthy looking, but some colonies are dying very fast, while others don't seem to be affected. Can you tell me anything about it? It can't be paralysis, for they don't have the greasy look that is described in "A B C of Bee-Culture." They have plenty of good sealed goldenrod honey.

Mo.

ANSWER.—With no other information than the bees are dying, and that they have a healthy look, it is hard to make any guess as to the cause, and possibly it would be no easier if one were on the spot. It is just possible that there may be nothing wrong. At this time of the year bees are constantly dying; more in some colonies than in others; and one with little experience might think the mortality excessive when only normal. It is nothing strange for a colony to lose half its bees or more in the course of the winter without anything being wrong. The simple fact that a pint or a quart of dead bees are found on the bottom-board is not a thing to awaken great anxiety.

### Requeening—3 and 5-banded Bees—In-Breeding.

1. Does a queen begin to decline after her second season?

2. For profit, will it pay a bee-keeper best to requeen his colonies, or let them supersede their own queens?

3. Is there any difference in honey-gathering qualities between the 3 and 5-banded Italians?

4. I reared all of my queens from one queen. Do you think my future stock will be seriously affected by in-breeding, or would it be best to rear new blood for the swarms next season (of course, supposing I have any)? CALIF.

ANSWERS.—1. That's a question that cannot be answered by a single word. Some queens may be on the decline before the close of the first year. Some queens may be as good as ever when 3 or 4 years old. If a queen is kept in a very strong colony, she will reach the limit of her usefulness sooner than if in a weak colony. Perhaps it may be said as a general rule that in an apiary where colonies are kept large and strong a queen is not as good in her third year, but with smaller hives there may be no decline till the close of the third season. It is by no means certain that this is correct, and whatever may be the general rule the exceptions are many.

2. Opinions are divided, the tendency being toward the belief that it is fully as profitable to leave the matter in the care of the bees. When a queen has gone beyond her prime, the bees will be pretty sure to supersede her, and their superseding will be done with less hindrance to the work of the colonies than if you take charge of the case.

3. Some 3-banders are very much better than some other 3-banders, and the same is true of the 5-banders; so the best 3-banders are better than the poorest 5-banders, and vice versa. If you could strike a fair average of both kinds you might find no difference.

4. There is danger of in-breeding where all or nearly all queens are from one mother, the danger being greater if only a small number of colonies are kept. I should say that they would be affected in your case to such a degree that it would pay well to get a new queen from which to breed.

"The Hum of the Bees in the Apple-Tree Bloom" is the name of the new bee-keeper's song—words by Hon. Eugene Secor and music by Dr. C. C. Miller. This is thought by some to be the best bee-song yet written by Mr. Secor and Dr. Miller. It is, indeed, a "hummer." We can furnish a single copy of it postpaid, for 10 cents, or 3 copies for 25 cents. Or, we will mail a half-dozen copies of it for sending us one new yearly subscription to the American Bee Journal at \$1.00.



[Entered at the Post-Office at Chicago as Second-Class Mail-Matter.]

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**Advertising Rates** will be given upon application.

VOL. 40.      JANUARY 25, 1900.      NO. 4

**EDITORIAL COMMENTS**

**NOTE**—The American Bee Journal adopts the Orthography of the following Rule, recommended by the joint action of the American Philological Association and the Philological Society of England:—Change "d" or "ed" final to "t" when so pronounced, except when the "e" affects a preceding sound. Also some other changes are used.

**The National Bee-Keepers' Union**, in all probability, by Feb. 1, will be merged with the United States Bee-Keepers' Association, and the resulting society be known hereafter as the *National Bee-Keepers' Association*. There will then be but one general organization instead of two, as has been the case the past 15 years. It will have about 500 members to begin with, and ought to push on to 1,000 right away.

Mr. Newman presents in this number his 15th, and likely his last, annual report for the Union. He has done grand work in the position he has held and acceptably filled for so long a time. We clearly remember when the Union was organized for the purpose of defending its members in their rights. As Mr. Newman well says, it has been wonderfully successful in its efforts during the whole of its existence. If the amalgamated organization will always do as well, no fault can justly be found.

**The Higginsville Hive-Cover** is shown in the January Progressive Bee-Keeper by two very neat and distinct pictures, No. 1 showing the cover complete, and No. 2 "with one cleat removed to show how the joints are constructed." This latter picture shows the projecting shoulders to the main pieces, and the channelled ridge-pole to fit over them, so that no water can get thru without traveling uphill. This was given on page 760 of this journal for 1899, as an im-

provement by the A. I. Root Co., and to this the Progressive Bee-Keeper took exception. On page 824 (1899) it was explained that any error made was unintentional; and now that the illustration in the Progressive Bee-Keeper shows what the error was supposed to be, our worthy contemporary will see that we were merely quoting from Gleanings in Bee-Culture, and a second look on page 760 will show that a direct quotation was made from that journal, in which was distinctly claimed as an addition to the old Higginsville "that the two side or gable pieces have perpendicular shoulders, and the ridge piece is channeled so as to straddle over these two shoulders." So if there is any error in the case, it should be settled with Gleanings in Bee-Culture, and not with this journal.

**Some Appliances for Moving Bees.**—When Rambler holds himself down to bee-talk he is instructive and interesting. Ramble 179 in Gleanings in Bee-Culture is one of the right sort; that sort that doesn't ramble too far out of sight of a bee-hive. He takes a midnight ride with a friend on a load of bee-hives, and discourses as to some of the appliances used. A novel and exceedingly simple plan was taken to close the entrances, as follows:

"The entrances to these hives were of the orthodox order, and clear across the front. Into this long space was thrust a piece of wirecloth cut about 1½ inches wide, and bent V-shape the entire length. The spring of the V ordinarily holds the piece from working loose, but our boss took the precaution to drive in a few nails to hold it secure. Screen wirecloth was placed over the entire top of the hive, with only a bee-space between it and the frames."

That did well enough for moving at night, but for daylight in hot weather Rambler would have a special cover for ventilation. One way is to have a rim 3 inches deep covered with wirecloth, so that the bees could cluster in that 3 inches over the frames. If hives are to be piled one upon another, then the top must be of board, and holes in the sides covered with wirecloth for ventilation. In this case the cover is made about 6 inches deep. As an additional protection against the heat, a light frame-work supports a covering of cotton-cloth sufficiently elevated to allow a free circulation of air over the hives, and this is made more soothing to the bees by being occasionally sprinkled with water from a spray-pump.

In moving bees an important "appliance" is the driver, and Rambler thinks this should in all cases be a bee-keeper. Then if a bee gets out, or some other thing goes wrong, there will not be a ruinous panic.

**Apiculture and the Government.**—In the Annual Report of the Secretary of Apiculture for 1899, just to hand, we find the following:

**WORK IN APICULTURE FOR 1899.**

The work in apiculture has included further observations on honey-producing and continuation of the experiments of last year in the wintering of bees and tests of various methods of preventing swarming. The results thus far obtained appear in a revised edition of Bulletin No. 1, new series. Experiments in queen-rearing, which promise new results of practical value, are in progress. The acquisition of the Philippine Islands has greatly increased the interest which bee-keepers have long felt in the large honey-bee of the far East, the so-called giant East Indian bees, and very many requests for information concerning this species and applications for queens of these bees have been received. Private enterprise has tried to import these bees into the United States in the past, but all attempts have failed, and the Department has been repeatedly requested to undertake the work.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1900.**

I wish to repeat the recommendation of a year ago, that the sum of \$2,500 be added to the lump sum of \$20,000, provided for "Entomological investigations," the added

amount to be used for the purpose of experimental investigations in apiculture. The result of a recommendation of a similar nature a year ago was the introduction into the clause appropriating for entomological investigations of the words, "Provided, That two thousand dollars of this sum may be expended for the purpose of experimental investigations in apiculture." As a matter of fact, in previous years certain of the funds of this Division have been expended for experimental work in apiculture, since this subject comes properly under the scope of "Entomological investigations." There seems, however, to be a great demand among the bee-keepers of the country for more work of this kind than the entomologist feels justified in undertaking by means of the lump fund. In other words, there is so much work which must be done upon injurious insects that the entire sum is none too great to carry it on. If the demanded work in apiculture is done at all well, additional means must be provided for it.

Should this latter recommendation be approved, and should the appropriation be made, it might be the means of importing into this country successfully one or both of the giant Indian bees which inhabit the Philippines. Bee-keepers have long been anxious to have the merits of these large Indian bees investigated in the proper way, and this would create a favorable opportunity.

We presume that "the proper way" referred to in the last sentence above, means that the "large Indian bees" will be experimented with first in their native land. Then if they prove sufficiently home-loving as to be content to stay in hives, and not all desert for the limb of some tree, it will be time to consider the possibility of their importation and use as honey-gatherers in this country—likely in Florida, Louisiana and Texas, where they would perhaps do the best.

**Bumble-Bees for Australia.**—The San Francisco Weekly Bulletin reported that in January, 1899, the New South Wales department of agriculture had a short time before received a consignment of bumble-bees by steamer from New Zealand. They were liberated in the Botanic gardens and in the Linnean Society's grounds at Elizabeth.

**Selling Granulated Extracted Honey.**—In spite of the general opinion that the only plan to run successfully a retail trade in extracted honey is to sell it in the liquid form, and gather up for remelting that which granulates, there are some who insist that the public can be taught to do their own melting. There can be no question as to which way gives the seller the least trouble after a set of customers has been so taught, and the fact that the thing *has* been done is a very strong argument in favor of the belief that it can be done.

It is well known that the late C. F. Muth did a very large business in retailing extracted honey, and his clientele were so trained that they preferred the honey in the granulated form. He was saved all anxiety about this honey granulating too soon, all trouble of gathering up from groceries or private customers any that had begun to granulate—in fact, so far as Mr. Muth was concerned, it was the same as if he had honey that never candied.

Among those at the present day who advocate selling in the granulated state, there is probably no one more prominent than R. C. Aikin, and his advocacy is entirely consistent in view of his own experience. Those who have a permanent residence, and expect to have the same customers year after year, may well consider the advisability of following Mr. Aikin's example. He says in the Progressive Bee-keeper:

"Do not tell me the people will not have it so—they *will* have it so, if we just put it up that way and keep it in the markets. The main trouble is introducing it where the idea is new; but that is easy, for it is so much better for the grocer that he becomes your voluntary agent in showing and explaining, and just get a customer to try a pail or two, and the thing is done."

"A little country town of probably less than 2,000 popu-

lation, a farming community with very few well-to-do farmers—such is my territory for trade, and honey in pails, and candied, *sells right along*. If my trade increases year by year as it has in the past five years, it will soon take carloads to supply it annually. Selling customers glass and other expensive packages with a *little* honey in them will soon disgust the masses with buying honey, when they can get a hundred pounds of sugar in a 5-cent sack. Study between the lines here and you will discover why honey does not become a staple—it *can and will*."



BECAUSE THEY BE.

Yes, flies are flies, because they fly,  
And fleas are fleas, because they flee;  
And that is very clearly why  
Bees are bees, because they BE.

—Modern Farmer.

\* \* \* \*

"A. B. WILLIAMS & Co., of Cleveland, who some time ago furnish quotations of the Cleveland honey market for Gleanings in Bee-Culture, have made an assignment; and from all that we can learn their creditors will get very little. The liabilities appear to be from \$10,000 to \$12,000, and assets about \$1,500. We have not published their quotations the past season, because we were not fully satisfied with the way they treated their shippers. The principal complaint was their tardiness in answering letters. We did not have a sufficiently definite case against them to warrant our publishing a word of caution, yet we did not have sufficient confidence in them to continue publishing their quotations. They had 10 cases of our honey unsettled for when they failed. We know of several others who have likewise suffered loss. When I called on them about three weeks ago they had very little honey in the house, but I do not know how much they had sold, and had not yet settled for. I hope very few have lost at their hands."

We were surprised to find the above in Gleanings in Bee-Culture for Jan. 15. Nothing further need be said, we think.

\* \* \* \*

MR. WM. H. EAGERTY, was born in Onondaga Co., New York, moved to Iowa later, where he engaged in the bee-business, and then about five years ago went to Republic Co., Kans., where he now lives and keeps bees. He has nearly 70 colonies, which he looks after both for pleasure and profit. He wrote thus of his work last September:

"I have had four good years and only one failure. I try to do my part or share of the work. So many were going into the business in a ship-shod way that we should have been swept away with the bee-disease known as foul brood. But now they will 'about ship,' and scud for home quarters, I think. I never object to persons going into the bee-business if they will only prepare themselves well for the work, and not just murder the bees thru ignorance."

Mr. Eagerty has written some for the bee-papers, and we have no doubt he understands the business all right. We do not know him personally, only that he has been one of our regular subscribers for years.



Wm. H. Eagerty.

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### "IT BEATS THE BAND,"

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### Queens Slow About Laying.—

The Australasian Bee-Keeper says:

"We had one instance this season of a queen starting to lay on the 26th day after emerging, and many instances of their commencing on the 20th and 21st day. Usually queens lay on the 10th day. Cold spells and unsettled and wet weather, and no honey-flow, was the cause."

### Leave Plenty of Stores for the Bees.—

A statement made by Allen Sharp in the British Bee Journal, is worthy of occasional repetition:

"I have tried all ways of managing bees, and all methods of feeding them, and I say without any hesitation that the best plan is to leave sufficient natural stores in every hive to last until honey comes in again. Colonies so provided in autumn require no further attention until supering time arrives, and they are the ones which yield best results."

### Locality.—Editor Hill says in the American Bee-Keeper:

"The noticeable inclination upon the part of some writers to ridicule the 'locality' idea is a clear evidence of limited experience. The young man who looks forward to apiculture as his life vocation would do well to receive his training in the country in which it is proposed to operate. Yet, our ability to choose wisely in the matter of a location is in proportion to the diversity of our observation and experience. Causes and effects in different localities are hardly less different in bee-keeping than are the varieties of vegetation and soil."

### Glass Sample Cards for Grading.—

Here is a suggestion by W. H. Pridgen, in the Progressive Bee-Keeper, that has at least a prepossessing appearance:

"While Dr. Miller and the Root Company are discussing the color-sample-card question, if there is sufficient demand to justify having such a thing, why not go ahead and have small panes of glass made varying in tints from clear to the shade of the darkest honey, viewed thru a flask  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick. By having one flask or flat bottle of a given thickness, and a set, say 12 different shades, beginning with white for number one, any one could grade his extracted honey by color and number."

### Chaff vs. Single-Walled Hives.—

In the Progressive Bee-Keeper, R. C. Aikin expresses himself as in doubt as to which is best. He thinks there are times when a chaff hive may be about equal to a refrigerator for a weak colony. He says:

"I know that a colony in a single-walled hive will respond more quickly to the outside temperature in the matter of heat, and the same as to cold; but, still, that does not prove one or the other. The difficulty seems to be to protect against cold, and not against heat, too. Sunny, warm days will dry out a single-walled hive when it will not a chaff one, and in such case, unless a strong colony is inside, the chaff is a detriment.

"I say the chaff becomes a detriment to weak colonies. If there could always be a very strong colony for the time of year, then the packt hive is all right, for it retains the heat of the colony against outside cold; but colonies good, bad and indifferent as to strength, will show varied results about wintering, and more particularly about building up in early spring. With the opening of spring, and the first warm, pleasant days, colonies in single-walled hives rouse up and are the first to have queens to lay freely. Weak colonies suffer with cold nights, and general cold changes,



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There is no doubt or disappointment when you plant **Hammond's Improved Early Jersey Wakefield**. Undoubtedly the purest and earliest strain known. The result of years of careful selection, both for earliness and perfect heads. Especially valuable to market gardeners. 5c pkt.; 1lb. oz.; 60  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., and 61.50 lb., all postpaid. **Hammond's Danish Ballhead**. A sure header of large, compact heads. My seed imported direct from R. Wiborts, Denmark. Guaranteed absolutely true to name. See catalogue for cash prices. Price same as above. Catalogue free.

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200 Colonies at \$3.00 each.

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WE HAVE IT AT LAST!

We have finally succeeded in getting a small quantity of the seed of the **YELLOW** variety of sweet clover. This kind blooms from two to four weeks earlier than the common or white variety of sweet clover. It also grows much shorter, only about two feet in height. It is as much visited by the bees as the white, and usually comes into bloom ahead of white clover and basswood. We offer the seed as a premium.

### A QUARTER POUND FOR SENDING ONE NEW SUBSCRIPTION.

So long as it lasts, we will mail a quarter pound of the seed to a regular paid-up subscriber who sends us ONE NEW subscriber for the American Bee Journal one year, with \$1.00.

We have been trying for years to secure this new seed, gathered last season by an old personal friend of ours, so we know it is all right. But we have only a small supply. When nearly out we will mention it.

**GEORGE W. YORK & CO.**  
118 Michigan Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

# Root's Column

—THE—  
=ABC=  
—OF—  
**BEE-CULTURE**

Revised in 1899—67,000 published.  
3,000 Copies of Latest Edition Sold in 3 Months.

Read what F. Danzenbaker, the inventor of the Danz. Hive, says of this book. There are few bee-keepers who have spent so much of a study of the production of fancy comb honey as has Mr. Danzenbaker, and his opinion of the work should be read by all who contemplate purchasing such a work.

**MR. E. R. Root:**—I have read former editions of the ABC of Bee-Culture, and I have carefully read all of the latest. It is so greatly improved, and brought down to date, brimful of the latest experiences of the most successful



F. Danzenbaker.

methods in all departments, that it might well be rechristened, "Bee-Keeping from A to Z." The hundreds of expensive and beautiful illustrations display to the eye what the text conveys to the mind, in a way to cover the entire field of apiculture, for beginners and veterans alike.

It is worth many times its cost to a beginner with but a single colony, and to those who have handled hundreds of colonies half a lifetime as well. It would have been worth thousands of dollars to me if I could have had such a book 40 years ago, and I would not take \$50 for the copy I have now if I could not get another.

If it could be placed in every school and library in our land, for the instruction of the masses, it would greatly increase the consumption as well as the production of honey, adding greatly to the health and wealth of the people.

**F. DANZENBAKER.**  
Washington, D. C. Jan. 8, 1900.

The ABC of Bee-Culture is sold by all dealers in bee-keepers' supplies, or will be sent postpaid on receipt of \$1.20. When sent by freight or express with other goods, the price is \$1.00.

**The A. I. Root Co.,**  
Medina,  
Ohio.

and if heavily packt, do not respond to outside warmth as more exposed colonies."

In reply, Mr. Doolittle seems to think that colonies in chaff hives will not come out weak in the spring, and says:

"With outdoor wintering not one colony in ten will come out strong when wintered in single-walled hives, in this locality, while with chaff hives, those having two or three inches of chaff packing, nine out of ten will be in good working order, and in two weeks' time will have double the amount of brood of that of the strong one, in the single-walled hive. Single-walled hives are only fit for cellar-wintering in this locality, and even then they are better off left in the cellar till settled warm weather comes. A trial of both side by side for the past 25 years, shows these things to be facts about here. And herein we have locality making all of the difference."

**Points in Bees.**—For the past few years the most important point to breed for has seemed to be color—at least in a great many cases. Queen-breeders tell us that purchasers have wanted more than anything else yellow bees. Now there seems to be a swing of the pendulum toward bees that have good qualities aside from color. Editor Root, in Gleanings in Bee-Culture, gives his idea of five points in the order of their importance, upon which a Stray Straw discourses as follows:

"Your classification of points for bees, Mr. Editor, is good: 1. Ability to get honey; 2. Good wintering ability; 3. Disinclination to swarm; 4. Good temper; 5. Good color. Possibly some other points ought to come in and shove color lower down, as whiteness of surplus combs. I rather think I'd want 2 and 3 to change places, making non-swarming come next after honey-getting."

**Some Pointers on Queen-Rearing** are given by W. H. Pridgen in Gleanings in Bee-Culture. He favors having the upper story for queen-rearing separated by division-boards into three apartments, then if accidentally a virgin queen is present there will not be the loss of so many cells. Instead of transferring a larva, he prefers transferring the cocoon or bottom of the cell, larva and all. Select larvae too small to transfer otherwise; transfer with the cocoon, give to bees taken from a hive with a laying queen, said bees having been shaken from the combs six hours previously, and 24 hours later give to the cell-builders. Or, take larvae of the size usually transferred, transferring with cocoon, putting at once in upper story without first giving to queenless bees for 24 hours. Either of these two ways will save using up cells to furnish royal jelly. Instead of giving queen-cells to nuclei, give just-hatched queens. It is quite possible that instead of having the combs for cells between combs with young brood, it may be better to have them between combs containing sealed brood.

**Avoiding Obstruction of Queen-Cells,** especially at swarming-time, has been a desideratum. F. L. Thompson tells in the Progressive Bee-Keeper how Geo. E. Dudley manages to have a queen caught in a trap when a colony swarms, and still allow free egress and ingress for the workers, as follows:

"He uses two entrances, to only one of which he applies the queen-trap (an ordinary trap, without any special modification). The queen always comes out thru this entrance, and is always caught in the trap; but the workers return from the fields thru the other entrance, the unobstructed one, tho they use both entrances indifferently when they leave the hive. This is accomplished by a modification of the bottom-board, so simple that I believe it would pay manufacturers to make all their bottom-boards on this principle. About two-thirds of the board, the rear end, is composed of a solid board, as usual; but the front third is composed of two  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pieces, the top of the upper one being on a

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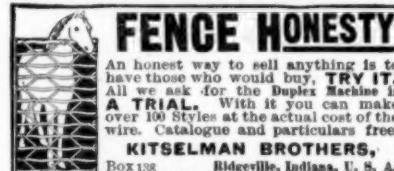


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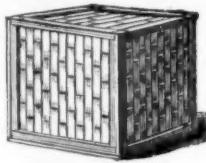
results from the best care of the bees. That results from the use of the best Apinary appliances.

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**THE LAND OF BREAD AND BUTTER**

is the title of a new illustrated pamphlet just issued by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, relating more especially to the land along the new line it is now building thru Bon Homme and Charles Mix counties in South Dakota. It will be found very interesting reading. A copy will be mailed free on receipt of 2-cent stamp for postage. Address Geo. H. Heafford, General Passenger Agent, Chicago, Ill. 4A3t

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Your Name and Address on one side—Three Bees on the other side.



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The Novelty Knife is indeed a novelty. The novelty lies in the handle. It is made beautifully of indestructible celluloid, which is as transparent as glass. Underneath the celluloid, on one side of the handle is placed the name and residence of the subscriber, and on the other side pictures of a Queen, Drone, and Worker, as shown here.

The Material entering into this celebrated knife is of the very best quality; the blades are hand-forged out of the very finest English razor-steel, and we warrant every blade. The bolsters are made of German silver, and will never rust or corrode. The rivets are hardened German silver wire; the linings are plate brass; the back springs of Sheffield spring-steel, and the finish of the handle as described above. It will last a long time, with proper usage.

Why Own the Novelty Knife? In case a good knife is lost, the chances are the owner will never recover it; but if the "Novelty" is lost, having name and address of owner, the finder will return it; otherwise to try to destroy the name and address, would destroy the knife. If traveling, and you meet with a serious accident, and are so fortunate as to have one of the "Novelties," your POCKET-KNIFE will serve as an identifier; and in case of death, your relatives will at once be notified of the accident.

How appropriate this knife is for a present! What more lasting memento could a mother give to a son, a wife to a husband, a sister to a brother, or a lady to a gentleman, the knife having the name of the recipient on one side?

The accompanying cut gives a faint idea, but cannot fully convey an exact representation of this beautiful knife, as the "Novelty" must be seen to be appreciated.

How to Get this Valuable Knife.—We send it postpaid for \$1.10, or give it as a Premium to the one sending us THREE NEW SUBSCRIBERS to the Bee Journal (with \$3.00.) We will club the Novelty Knife and the Bee Journal for one year, both for \$1.90.

GEORGE W. YORK & CO., 118 Mich. St., Chicago, Ill.

\*Please allow about two weeks for your knife order to be filled.

**Please Mention the Bee Journal when writing Advertisers.**

level with the top of the rear solid portion, and the bottom of the lower one on a level with the bottom of the rear portion. This leaves a space or hollow passage between them,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch or more deep, and the width of the hive, and extending about 7 inches back of the ordinary entrance, which is provided for as usual by a bee-space on top of the bottom-board. The underground passage, as it might be called, is connected with the interior of the hive by two transverse slots, each about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, where the solid portion is met. These slots are under the side frames, one slot at each side of the hive, and that is the secret of it. The side combs usually contain honey rather than brood, and the queen is usually not on those combs, but on the center ones, containing brood, and when a swarm issues she makes a straight shoot from the brood-combs to the only entrance that appears to be available—the ordinary entrance, where the trap is placed. The bees, as aforesaid, always return thru the lower entrance when bringing home honey or pollen, hence it does not matter how much the upper one is blocked up by the trap and by masses of bees hanging out. Mr. Dudley has tried this on a large scale two seasons without a single failure, and has made 200 such bottom-boards for future use."



Selling Extracted Honey, Etc.

My method is to extract all unfinest sections and put it into two-quart tin-pails holding  $4\frac{1}{2}$  pounds of honey. Sell pail and honey for 50 cents. The pails cost \$5.75 per gross, so it gives me 10 cents a pound. I find no trouble to sell it the second time to the same customer. I warrant it strictly pure.

The past was the poorest season since I have kept bees. I had only about 60 pounds from 65 colonies. I had to feed up for winter. We are having a very mild winter so far. I hope to see the bees come out well in the spring, for I delight to see bees lively, and make the air hum with their activity.

The ground is covered here with snow now. I am afraid that a good many bees will starve thru this section.

I don't see how any bee-keeper can get along without some bee-paper. It seems to me as if they would be shut up from the outside, and would not know what their fellow bee-keepers are doing.

G. H. ADKINS.

Essex Co., N. Y., Jan. 16.

Selling Honey in Home Market.

My bees are in a locality where they surely do well in one respect—that is, they increase. Our winters are not cold enough to even thin them out good. To illustrate: I ask the principal merchant here if he could not handle some of my honey. His reply was, "No, no, every family in the town has bees!" That was a year ago. I bought, the past summer, two lots of bees, one in the town containing 50 colonies, 8 of which were in good hives and the rest in boxes that took the regular size frame, or, rather, were built for them, but not used, as there were sticks instead. There were 36 supers and over two pounds of foundation, all for \$25. The other lot in the same vicinity (9 colonies) I got for 100 pounds of cheap honey that I retail to the Mexicans at 5 cents per pound, and the latter bees were hauled to my place.

In Las Cruces I ask a merchant to handle my honey, and he replied that honey was sold on the streets, and that the stores could not sell a pound per month. So it was with some misgivings that on June 10 I took some comb and extracted honey to Las Cruces. I had 28 sections, 3 half-depth frames, and 4 quart-jars. The sections

brought \$3.60, frames 90 cents, and the jars \$1.00. (I have since raised the quarts 5 cents.) I was agreeably surprised to find nearly every one to whom I showed honey wanted it. I could have sold more. The following Saturday (June 17) I sold all the comb honey I took, and some extracted, amounting to \$4.55; the 24th, \$5.05. July 1 I worked for a friend, so that he could look after his peach crop. July 8 I sold \$5.25; July 22, in Mesilla Park and Las Cruces, \$4.15. I found sales rather slow, as fruit was very plentiful, and was taking the place.

I now go every other Saturday to Las Cruces with honey, as much to hold a few good customers as anything, altho I trade there. I find for one batching on a bee-ranch in the country, with only people of a foreign tongue for neighbors, the money received is not by any means the only source of profit.

I am starting in the chicken business in a small way, and want hens. I found one of my customers raising chickens for the table, and I exchanged roosters for pullets. Last but not least, we make pleasant acquaintances, see bright faces and happy homes, and the children run shouting to their mothers, "Here comes the honey-man!" EDW. A. CHANDLER.

Dona Ana Co., New Mexico.

#### Pretty Poor Year for Honey.

One year ago I went into winter with seven colonies, and lost only one. I wintered them on the summer stands in chair hives. The past year has been pretty poor for honey, considering the late swarming. They did not commence swarming till the last of May, and it lasted until the middle of June. I got about 30 pounds of surplus honey. All went into winter quarters with brood-chambers well filled with honey. I bought the wedge top-bar frames, and don't want any more of them. The old Hoffman is good enough for me. ASA RICE.

Muskegon Co., Mich., Jan. 7.

#### Bees Wintering Splendidly.

My bees are wintering splendidly so far. We had a splendid flow of honey from Spanish-needle in September, so the bees are in fine condition for winter. I have 18 colonies, and got 50 pounds of comb honey and one swarm the last season.

GEO. H. WEED.

Carroll Co., Ill., Jan. 17.

#### Inky Drops and Smoker Fuel.

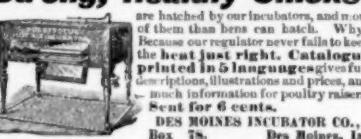
I have been making bee-smokers for 21 years, and using them in my own apiary 22 (excepting five years when I had no bees), and while producing comb honey every season (excepting as above) I do not remember having the inky spots referred to on a single section. For the last five years I have used tall sections exclusively, and I do not use bee escapes. During four years of that time I have used a 4-inch smoker, and know that not a single section or anything else has been injured by the drops mentioned.

The first thing that will be asked after reading the above, will be, What does Bingham use for fuel? And it is proper here to explain, that in the first place, convenience and cost decide that matter, as my smokers have always burnt anything put into them. The 4-inch is so large you can pour the smallest chips from a basket into it. So I scrape up a lot of dry chipped dirt in my woodshed, and drop it on a wire-cloth screen and shake out all the sand and real dirt; then pick off all the very large pieces of bark and use the balance for smoker-fuel.

In damp weather probably it would be better to dry the stuff I use, but it burns well enough, and so I don't take any pains to dry it. But if the sun is bright, I frequently set the fuel-box out where it will be handy and in the sun.

I should prefer to have the fuel hot from a stove-oven or the bright sun. A wax ex-

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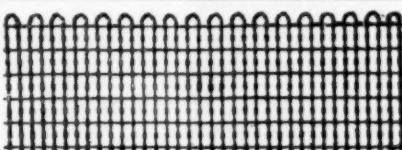
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AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, 118 Mich. St., Chicago, Ill.

tractor would be a fine thing for the job, and handy.

I burn all the chips and make all the smoke I can when I handle bees, but I do not use a veil, and rarely get a sting.

The moral effect of smoke in an apiary can not be measured. If your smoker makes lots of smoke without puffing, you can handle your bees without smoking them much; but if you don't have a lot of smoke ready-made you will have to smoke them down, because, like the English in the Transvaal, you were not ready, and the bees got mad, and wouldn't let up till conquered.

T. F. BINGHAM.

Clare Co., Mich.

### Something from Florida.

On the journey from Peoria, Ill., to Mobile, Ala., I watcht for bee-hives, and only saw from the car windows a very few in Illinois. The market for honey in Mobile is undeveloped, as the demand for it has never been created.

Since my arrival here, I visited a resident who has a small apiary. I inquired how his bees had prospered during the past summer. He said:

"The February freeze last winter destroyed the fruit-bloom, and when it bloomed again in March the frost took it, and also the ti-ti. The February freeze also destroyed the bloom of the saw-palmetto, and there was no bloom at all. I fed my bees much sugar to keep them from starving, but I'll never do it again; if they can't make a living they may go. Three of my weak colonies were destroyed by moths."

At a store here extracted honey is drawn thru gate from a barrel, and retailed at 20 cents per quart. It is good honey, and the dealer says weighs 12 pounds to the gallon. This honey was produced on the Choctobatchie, near Freeport, by an apiarist who owned 300 colonies. This honey was gathered last year.

Tho there was no surplus honey gathered in this locality the past season, on account of the previous winter's cold and summer's drouth, yet I am told there was some surplus at Wewahitchka. The land there is rich and damp, and tupelo trees yield much honey; also vines growing in the water, and are lifted into the sunshine by the tall, dead trees. Wewahitchka is an Indian word signifying "eye-glasses," as these two lakes are joined together like them. These lakes are 35 miles long, and from 2 to 17 miles wide. The land adjoining is very rich, like the delta of the Nile, made by the overflow of the river, which leaves a rich deposit.

MRS. L. HARRISON.

Washington Co., Fla., Jan. 9.

### Not a Good Year for Honey.

The past was not a very good year for the bees. Last winter's losses were quite heavy. I lost 16 out of 41, increase to 51, and took about 35 pounds per colony, spring count, of comb honey. All of my honey is sold in the home market at 12½ cents per pound.

F. E. HENRY.

Harrison Co., Iowa, Jan. 8.

### Manufactured Comb Honey Again.

By request of Mr. M. E. Wolfe of this place, I write for information in regard to manufactured comb honey in one-pound sections, etc. It seems as if the majority of the people of this city, and about nine-tenths of the merchants, believe that the comb can be manufactured, filled with manufactured honey, and then capt or sealed over and put in the one-pound sections, just the same as is done by the bees. Mr. Wolfe wrote Rev. E. T. Abbott about the matter, and in answer to the letter Mr. Abbott said such an article as manufactured comb honey was not in existence, and that he would give \$500 for one pound of such honey, with the information as to where it was manufactured.

Mr. Wolfe also wrote Mr. A. H. Duff about the matter, and he also said that such a thing as comb honey being manu-

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### Convention Notices.

**California.**—The tenth annual convention of the California State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in the Chamber of Commerce, at Los Angeles, Feb. 21 and 22, 1900. It will be called to order at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 21. At this time the railroads will sell round-trip tickets to Los Angeles and return for one and one-third fare, on account of the Industrial, Mining, and Citrus Exposition, which will be held in Los Angeles. Tickets good for 10 days. Let every bee-keeper bring some hive, tool or experience that he has found valuable, and we will have a good convention. J. F. MCINTYRE, Sec. Suspe, Calif.

**Wisconsin.**—There will be a joint convention of all Wisconsin bee-keepers' societies at the 10th annual meeting of the State Bee-Keepers' Association, Feb. 7 and 8, 1900, in the State Capitol, at Madison, Wis. Many prominent keepers will be there and take part.

Excursion rates of a fare and one-third for the round-trip, for railroad tickets purchased in the State, for over 50 cents each. Be sure to bring a certificate of each ticket purchased so it can be signed Feb. 8, in Madison, and entitle the holder to a third fare return.

The State Horticultural and State Cheesemakers' Associations will meet on the same date in the Capitol.

Don't forget the date—Feb. 7 and 8. It will pay you to attend. N. E. FRANCE, Sec. Platteville, Wis.

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factured by machinery and put on the market in marketable shape, the same as the comb and honey made by the bees, was not in existence. Mr. Duff also stated that the "American Bee-Keepers' Association" has a standing offer of \$1,000 for one pound of manufactured honey, which has not been taken, altho standing for 15 years. Does Mr. Root still offer \$1,000 for one pound of manufactured comb honey? If he does, that would make \$2,500 for any one that will manufacture one pound of comb honey, the same as is done by the honey-bees.

As for Mr. Wolfe and myself, we take the stand that it is a mistaken idea, but for the benefit of others and the public in general we take this method of having it explained thoroly and satisfactorily to all, thru the columns of your paper. It is surprising how large a percent of the public believes that comb honey is manufactured and placed on the market. This subject should be more thoroly discussed, so as to correct such false ideas that so many people are laboring under.

L. WAYMAN.

Labette Co., Kan.

[Mr. Wayman, you can assure Mr. Wolfe that there is no such thing as manufactured comb honey, and likely never will be any. The bee-keepers' association never has made the offer mentioned; Mr. Root did, and does yet, we believe. But we are certain it was not made with the idea that he wanted people to go ahead and manufacture comb honey so as to get the reward offered, but simply if any one heard that there was such an article being manufactured, he would give \$1,000 for a pound of it.

We might say that a bee-paper is hardly the proper place to deny the existence of manufactured comb honey, but rather in the newspapers where it is kept going. Readers of bee-papers are hardly so foolish as to believe such a falsehood.—EDITOR.]

### Honey Crop Generally Light.

As a rule the honey crop in this locality was light, altho a few apiarists report a good yield. I commenced last spring with three good colonies and one weakling. I took off a surplus of about 70 nicely-filled sections. I use the fence and plain sections, and like them very well. I increased to eight colonies, and had two swarms leave for the woods. I shall try dividing another year. I lost one colony this fall by the combs melting down.

IRA LUBBERS.

Sheboygan Co., Wis., Jan. 9.

### Prickly-Ash Honey Bitter.

I can report 1,800 pounds of comb honey for 1899, and I sold it all for cash to a New York firm for 12 cents a pound. It was all bitter honey that I could not sell here. It was gathered from prickly-ash bloom.

I would not do without the American Bee Journal if it cost double the subscription price.

HENRY K. GRESH.

Elk Co., Pa., Jan. 12.

### Best Season in Eight Years.

Another year has past, and it was the best I have had in eight years since I have been in the bee-business. I started last spring with 63 colonies, ingested to 83, and extracted about 8,000 pounds of fine honey, which I sold long ago. I could sell that much more if I had it.

Our honey-flow commenced July 7, and continued until Sept. 12, when it turned cold, and we had a few hard frosts which froze everything that was in bloom. After that we had three weeks of fine weather—it got so warm that some white clover bloomed, and also some dandelion. Last winter was so cold that it froze almost all the clover in this vicinity, but the seed came up again, and the pastures are as thick as ever, which looks fine so far, and if clover does not freeze this winter the prospects will be good for another year.

The colony that I had on scales gained

327 pounds, but it did not swarm. I had another colony that filled five 10-frame Langstroth hive-bodies; the five were all on the hive at one time. That colony did not swarm, either. I had some colonies that swarmed three times, and then stored some honey in the fall. **JACOB WIRTH.**  
Henry Co., Ill.

### Expects a Honey Crop this Year.

Bees in this section (north half of San Diego County) are generally in pretty good condition, bringing plenty of pollen and a little honey. We had a  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch downpour of rain a week ago, and feel reasonably sure of some honey next spring. All honey-plants look well. Days are bright, clear and warm—with the temperature about  $65^{\circ}$  from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**G. F. MERRIAM.**

San Diego Co., Calif., Jan. 11.

### Cayuga Co., N. Y., Convention.

The bee-keepers of Cayuga County, N. Y., met in Auburn, Dec. 21, 1899. At 10:30 a.m. the meeting was called to order by Pres. N. L. Stevens, after which he read a paper touching on different points of progress in bee-culture. Then the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: President, N. L. Stevens; 1st Vice-President, Edwin Austin; 2nd Vice-President, J. S. Seecomb; 3rd Vice-President, A. B. Comstock; Secretary, J. O. Pierson; Treasurer, T. Brigdon.

Each member was requested to give the number of colonies, spring count and fall count, number bought, and number of pounds of comb and extracted honey produced.

In the afternoon the question-box was taken in hand by Mr. Frank Benton, he reading each question and giving his opinion; then it was an open question for any member to discuss. After the question-box Mr. Benton gave a lecture, illustrated by drawings on a blackboard, of the fertilization of blossoms by the honey-bee, which lasted until the end of the session.

**Cayuga Co., N. Y.** **F. E. WHITMAN.**

### Bees Cellar-Wintering Nicely.

My 80 colonies in the cellar seem to be getting along nicely. My loss last winter and spring was 123 colonies out of 166. It is to be hoped that we will not have such a winter again.  
**W. C. NUTT.**

Hardin Co., Iowa, Jan. 8.

### Wintering Well in the Cellar.

Bees are wintering well in the cellar. I put in 126 colonies last fall. We have no snow. The temperature was  $50^{\circ}$  above zero the day before Christmas.  
**S. C. SWANSON.**

Goodhue Co., Minn., Jan. 5.

### Bees in Fine Condition.

Bees had a general flight the 7th, and have been flying more or less all the week since then. We are having a splendid January. Bees are in fine shape to date.  
**S. A. MATSON.**

Nodaway Co., Mo., Jan. 13.

### Prospects Good.

The weather is fine. Last Friday and today the bees had good flights, and appear to be in fine condition. The sky was clear and the thermometer at  $48^{\circ}$  degrees. The prospect is good so far.  
**JOSEPH MASON.**  
DeKalb Co., Ill., Jan. 7.

### Report for Last Year.

Last year I got just an even ton of fancy comb honey from 20 colonies, spring count, and increased to 44 colonies, to say nothing of 10 prime absconded swarms, and a novice attendant.  
**E. WOODALL.**

Lake Co., Mich., Jan. 13.

## BEE-BOOKS

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**George W. York & Co. 118 Mich. St. Chicago.**

**Bees and Honey, or Management of an Apiary for Pleasure and Profit,** by Thomas G. Newman.—It is nicely illustrated, contains 160 pages, beautifully printed in the highest style of the art, and bound in cloth, gold-lettered. Price, in cloth, 75 cents; in paper, 50 cents.

**Langstroth on the Honey-Bee,** revised by Dadant.—This classic in bee-culture has been entirely re-written, and is fully illustrated. It treats of everything relating to bees and bee-keeping. No apianer library is complete without this standard work by Rev. L. L. Langstroth—the Father of American Bee-Culture. It has 520 pages, bound in cloth. Price, \$1.25.

**Bee-Keepers' Guide, or Manual of the Apizy,** by Prof. A. J. Cook, of the Michigan Agricultural College.—This book is not only instructive and helpful as a guide in bee-keeping, but is interesting and thoroly practical and scientific. It contains a full delineation of the anatomy and physiology of bees. 460 pages, bound in cloth and fully illustrated. Price, \$1.25.

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**Rational Bee-Keeping,** by Dr. John Dzierzon.—This is a translation of his latest German book on bee-culture. It has 350 pages, bound in paper covers, \$1.00.

**Bienen-Kultur,** by Thos. G. Newman.—This is a German translation of the principal portion of the book called "Bees and Honey." 100-page pamphlet. Price, 25 cents.

**Bienenzucht und Honiggewinnung, nach der neuesten methode (German)** by J. F. Eggers.—This book gives the latest and most approved methods of bee-keeping in an easy, comprehensive style, with illustrations to suit the subject. 50 pages, board cover. Price, 50 cents.

**Bee-Keeping for Beginners,** by Dr. J. P. H. Brown, of Georgia.—A practical and condensed treatise on the honey-bee, giving the best modes of management in order to secure the most profit. 110 pages, bound in paper. Price, 50 cts.

**Bee-Keeping for Profit,** by Dr. G. L. Tinker.—Revised and enlarged. It details the author's "new system, or how to get the largest yields of comb or extracted honey." 80 pages, illustrated. Price, 25 cents.

**Apiary Register,** by Thomas G. Newman.—Devotes two pages to a colony. Leather binding. Price, for 50 colonies, \$1.00; for 100 colonies, \$1.25.

**Dr. Howard's Book on Foul Brood.**—Gives the McEvoy Treatment and reviews the experiments of others. Price, 25 cents.

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## HONEY AND BEESWAX

### MARKET QUOTATIONS.

**CHICAGO,** Jan. 8.—We quote best white comb at 15c; an occasional small lot of fancy sells at 16c; off grades of white, 12@14c; ambers, 10@12c. Extracted, 8@9c for fancy white; 7@8c for amber; 6@7c for dark grades. Beeswax, 27c.

Receipts are larger and the demand is not as good as it has been. **R. A. BURNETT & Co.**

**CINCINNATI,** Dec. 7.—There is a good demand for all kinds of extracted honey. White clover and basswood sell at 8@8½c; amber and Southern, 6@7c, according to quality and package. Fancy comb honey in no-drip shipping-cases sell at 15@16c; darker grades hard to sell at any price. Beeswax, 26c. **C. H. W. WEBER,** Successor to Chas. F. Muth & Son and A. Muth.

**LOS ANGELES,** Jan. 4.—1-pound frames, 12½@15c; 2-pound cans, 2 dozen in case, per dozen, \$2.50; 2-pound glass pails, per dozen, \$2.50. Extracted, water white, 60-pound tins, per pound, 8½c; light amber, 7½@8c; dark amber, 7½c. Beeswax, 25@26c.

**KANSAS CITY,** Jan. 19.—We quote No. 1 white comb, 13½@14c; No. 2, 13@13½c; No. 1 amber, 13@14c. Extracted, white, 7½@8c; amber, 7@7½c. Beeswax, 20@22c.

The supply and demand for comb honey is light. The demand for extracted since the first of the year is not so good. **C. C. CLEMONS & Co.**

**BUFFALO,** Jan. 5.—Market bare of fancy white one-pound comb honey, and selling at 15@16c; fair to good, 12@14c; buckwheat, dark, poor, etc., 8@10c. Fancy pure beeswax, 28@30c. **BATTERSON & Co.**

**NEW YORK** Dec. 10.—Demand is very good for all grades of comb honey. Receipts are somewhat light and not up to former years. We quote:

Fancy white, 15 cents; No. 1, white, 13@14c; amber, 11@12c; and buckwheat, 9@11c, as to quality. Extracted remains firm at following prices: California white, 8½c; light amber, 8c; white clover and basswood, 8c; amber, 7½c. Very little trade for extracted buckwheat as yet. Southern, fancy, 7½c per pound; other grades, as to quality, from 7c to 7½c gallon. Beeswax quiet at 26@27c. **HILDRETH & SEGELKEN.**

**SAN FRANCISCO,** Jan. 10.—White comb, 11½@12½c; amber, 8@10c. Extracted, white, 7½@8c; light amber, 7@7½c; amber, 5@5½c; Beeswax, 26@27c.

Offerings and demand are both light, and this must continue to be the case until the end of the season. Business is necessarily of a retail character, but at generally firm figures, especially for choice extracted, which is in lighter supply than comb.

**BOSTON,** Jan. 12.—We quote as follows: Fancy white, 16c; A No. 1, 15c; No. 1, 13@14c; buckwheat will not sell in this city. Extracted, light amber, 7@8c. Demand is very light. **BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE.**

**ALBANY,** Dec. 10.—We quote: Fancy white comb, 15c; No. 1 white, 13@14c; mixt, 11@13c; buckwheat, 10@11c. Extracted, white, 8@9c; mixt, 6½@7c; dark, 6. Beeswax, 26@28c. **MACDOUGAL & Co.**

Successors to Chas. McCulloch & Co.

**OMAHA,** Jan. 4.—Prices remain unchanged. Fancy white is still moving slowly at 14@14½c. Extracted, white, 8½c. Now that holiday trade is over and dealers have taken their inventory, they soon will be thinking of replenishing their stock and more lively trade is anticipated in the near future, but no material advance is looked for during January. **PEYCKE BROS.**

**DETROIT,** Jan. 11.—Fancy white, 16@17c; No. 1, white, 14@15c; dark amber, 10@13c. Extracted, white, 8c; dark and amber, 6@7c. Beeswax, 24@25c. **M. H. HUNT & SON.**

**WANTED.**—Extracted honey all kinds; mail sample and price expected delivered at Cincinnati. I pay spot cash on delivery. **C. H. W. WEBER,** Successor to Chas. Muth & Son and A. Muth, 40 Atf 2146-48 Central Ave., Cincinnati, O.

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